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Navy Medicine Headquarters Moves to Falls Church, Va.

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By Shoshona Pilip-Florea, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, the flagship command for all of Navy and Marine Corps medicine, started relocating its staff May 30 from

Washington, D.C., to Falls Church, Va., as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005.

Vice Adm. Matt L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief, BUMED, will officially transfer his flag June 1, with the rest of the BUMED staff completing their move by June 5.

“BUMED is alive and strong,” said Nathan, at a symbolic “Change of Port” ceremony held May 3 at its former location in Washington, D.C. “It is a culmination of the men and women who serve the Navy Medical Department, whom our Sailors, Marines, and their families are counting on to complete the mission. We are simply about to shift colors and go to a new homeport.”

BUMED has been located at “the Hilltop” in the Foggy Bottom area here for 70 years, but the campus has served a variety of U.S. Navy and Navy Medicine activities for nearly a century. The compound holds significant Navy historical value and houses the original Naval Observatory.



Rear Adm. Michael Mittelman, deputy chief, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and deputy surgeon general, rendering honors to the U.S. flag during the playing of the National Anthem.

Navy Medicine Video

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March 2015 (2)

February 2015 (16)

January 2015 (12)

December 2014 (17)

“It is with mixed emotions that we are leaving here,” said Rear Adm. Michael H. Mittelman, U.S. Navy deputy surgeon general. “It is also with excitement that will be moving to our new location. This place will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our ethos will not change, just where we sit.”

BUMED will be collocating with its Army, Air Force, and TRICARE Management Activity medical counterparts into a new facility called the Defense Health Headquarters, but all the services will maintain their own missions and leadership structure.

In a May 9 email message to his BUMED staff, Nathan emphasized that the mission goes on, despite the move.

“Defense Health Headquarters is not an entity, it is simply a building,” said Nathan. “BUMED has a long and proud tradition and an eight mile stretch of highway does not change that. An address is only a geographic location. It is not what makes our command great-it is each and every one of you, your dedication, your hard work, and your commitment to our Sailors and Marines to provide them the very best in care and support.”

The new address for BUMED is 7700 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va., 22042-5113.

As the Navy Surgeon General and Chief, BUMED, Nathan leads 63,000 Navy Medicine personnel that provide healthcare support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.

Updated information on how to reach BUMED personnel is available at <https://admin.med.navy.mil/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>.

For more information, visit <http://www.med.navy.mil/>, <https://www.facebook.com/USNavyMedicine>, or <http://twitter.com/NavyMedicine> .



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November 2014 (11)
October 2014 (15)
September 2014 (20)
August 2014 (14)
July 2014 (13)
June 2014 (8)
May 2014 (11)
April 2014 (9)
March 2014 (14)
February 2014 (7)
January 2014 (7)
December 2013 (7)
November 2013 (12)
October 2013 (7)
September 2013 (14)
August 2013 (13)
July 2013 (11)
June 2013 (22)
May 2013 (15)
April 2013 (14)
March 2013 (14)
February 2013 (14)
January 2013 (12)
December 2012 (11)
November 2012 (11)
October 2012 (7)
September 2012 (9)
August 2012 (12)
July 2012 (13)
June 2012 (17)
May 2012 (22)
April 2012 (14)
March 2012 (13)
February 2012 (14)
January 2012 (13)
December 2011 (13)
November 2011 (20)
October 2011 (22)
September 2011 (12)